

Atty Docket No: JCLA5433

Serial No.: 09/478.861

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action mailed June 13, 2002, rejected all claims 1-14. Specifically, the Office Action objected to claim 8 because of informality. The Office Action further rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,532,841) in view of Baumann (U.S. Pat. No. 6,104,922). Applicants have amended claim 8 above to correct the informality. In addition, Applicants have also amended independent claim 1 above to more clarify the scope of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by way of these amendments. As amended, these claims clearly distinguish over the prior art, and therefore overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-14 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Summary of Applicants' Invention

The Applicant's invention is directed to a reporting system capable of reporting the end of a scanning session to a user through existing computer peripheral devices is proposed. By reporting at the end of a scanning session, the user can proceed with subsequent scanning operations with no delay. Hence, idle time of the scanner is greatly reduced.

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Discussion of Office Action Rejections

Claim 8 was objected to because of informality. Applicants have amended claim 8 above to correct the informality.

Turning now to the substantive rejection, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Baumann. The Office Action alleged that Nakajima discloses almost the requisite features as claimed in the invention, but fails to disclose that "notifying the user" as claimed. The Office Action further stated that Baumann discloses the lack feature. In response, Applicants respectfully disagree the rejection and its interpretations for at least reasons set forth below.

Nakajima discloses a facsimile apparatus comprising a plurality of image reading units. The facsimile apparatus comprises a controlling unit 300 and image reading units, for example, 100 and 200. According to Nakajima's disclosure, *it discusses a communication established between the controlling unit 300 and the image reading units 100, 200, so that the status (ready or not ready) can be returned to the controlling unit 300. And, the controlling unit 300 can know the status of each image reading unit 100 or image recording unit 200* (for example, col. 11, lines 27-31, lines 32-36, lines 62-67)

In addition, all report signal or status information are communicated only among the controlling unit 300 and the image reading unit. All the image reading units are under control of the controlling unit 300. Therefore, according to Nakajima's disclosure, the controlling unit has no reasons to inform the user of any report signal or status signal communicated between the controlling unit and the image reading unit. *Namely, the only concerned fact of the Nakajima's*

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disclosure is nothing about the user. The controlling unit 300 can well control the image reading unit 100 and the image recording unit 200.

Moreover, the Office Action alleged that Nakajima discloses "selecting a peripheral device (100a or 100b) for reporting the end of a scanning session to the user". However, according to Nakajima's disclosure, the item 100a or 100b are image reading unit, and only transmit their own status to the controlling unit 300.

But, according to the invention, *the claimed peripheral device is capable of informing the user of the end-of-scan report*, such as a sound card capable of emitting sound, a loudspeaker installed inside a computer, a network card capable of transmitting electronic mail to a mailbox of the user, a digital data recorder capable of dialing a telephone number, a digital data recorder capable of dialing a pager number, or a digital data recorder capable of dialing a mobile telephone number (see claims 2-7 of the present invention, for example). Therefore, Nakajima fails to disclose *"selecting a peripheral device capable of reporting the end of a scanning session to the user"*.

The Office Action further stated that Nakajima further teaches wherein the peripheral device includes a sound card capable of emitting sound, a loudspeaker installed in a computer, a network card capable of transmitting electronic mail to a mail box, ...etc. The Office Action alleged that these are only a matter of design choices. In col. 7, lines 6-10 and col. 8, lines 55-59, no such teachings are provided. In col. 8, lines 55-59, Nakajima only states that the status of the units 100, 200 and 300 can be transmitted through the telephone line. Nakajima still fails to

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teach such features as claimed in claims 2-7 and 9-14 of the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that these are not design choices.

In addition, according to the invention, the device for notifying the user is not the scanner itself. The computer system will choose a proper peripheral to inform the user. This feature is not disclosed by Nakajima.

According to Nakajima's disclosure, one has no idea whether the image reading unit, the image recording unit, or the controlling unit *is capable of making sound through a speaker, a sound card, or sending e-mail etc to acknowledge the user*. All we could know is that the image reading unit, the image recording unit, and the controlling unit can send their own status to each other.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Nakajima fails to disclose, suggest, or disclose any requisite feature of the invention, and therefore, the claimed invention clearly distinguishes over the Nakajima's disclosure.

Regarding the Baumann's disclosure, Baumann discloses a user authentication in a communication system utilizing biometric information. According to Baumann's disclosure, the most important feature or teaching is that the user's password has to be verified first if a communication wants to be established. The user's password is the biometric information, such as the retinal.

However, the alleged retinal scanner cannot perform a document scanning job because it is used for scanning the human's eye. Therefore, Baumann's retinal scanner cannot scan a bunch of documents and has no require detecting the end-of-scan. According to Baumann's process of

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notifying the user, the user's biometric information is scanned and then sent to a center for matching. If the scanned biometric information and the preset biometric information is consistent, then the user is notified so as to establish a communication between users.

In contrast, according to the invention, the scanner has no require detecting the user's biometric information. The scanner only sends an end-of-scan message to the user through the speaker, the sound card, the e-mail, or any available peripheral device.

According to the Bauman's disclosure, Nakajima has no reasons and motivations to utilize Baumann's teachings *because Nakajima's image reading unit, image recording unit and controlling do not require the user's biometric information to transmit their own status*. In addition, according to the invention, the scanner only sends a report to the user and therefore, the user's biometric information is not required.

For at least the reasons set out above, Nakajima has no reasons and motivations to combine the Baumann's teachings. Alternatively, if Nakajima utilizes the Baumann's teachings, Nakajima's image reading unit, image recording unit and controlling unit has to scan the user's biometric information first, otherwise no status can be transmitted. Therefore, even though Nakajima utilizes the Baumann's teachings, the cited combination still fails to teach, disclose or suggest any requisite feature as claimed in the invention.

The requisite features are recited in the independent claims 1 and 8, which are set forth immediately below:

1. A method of reporting an end of a scanning session to a user, comprising the steps of:
selecting a peripheral device capable of reporting the end of a scanning session to the user; and



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notifying the user through the selected peripheral device after a series of scanning tasks has ended.

(Emphasis added). Also, independent claim 8 recites.

8. A method of reporting an end of a scanning session to a user, comprising the steps of:

using a computer to detect how many peripheral devices are available for reporting the end of a scanning session to the user;

selecting at least a peripheral device to report the end of a scanning session to the user;

performing all scanning tasks in a scanning session;

notifying the user, through the selected peripheral device, that a series of scanning tasks has ended; and

determining if a scanning operation is waiting, wherein if a scanning operation is waiting, the method jumps to the step of selecting the peripheral device, and if no scanning operation is waiting, the scanning operation is terminated.

(Emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 8 patently define over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to adequately disclose those features emphasized above.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 10 defines over the prior art, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 12-16 define over the prior art as well.

Prior Art Made Of Record

The prior art made of record, but not relied upon, is not deemed to affect the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

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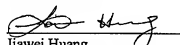
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believe that all pending claims 1-14 in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

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**ANNOTATED VERSION OF MODIFIED CLAIMS
TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In The Claim:

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended as follows:

1. A method of reporting an end of a scanning session to a user, comprising the steps of:
selecting a peripheral device [for] capable of reporting the end of a scanning session to the user; and

notifying the user through the selected peripheral device after a series of scanning tasks has ended.

8. (Once Amended) A method of reporting an end of a scanning session to a user, comprising the steps of:

using a computer to detect how many peripheral devices are available for reporting the end of a scanning session to the user;

selecting at least a peripheral device to report the end of a scanning session to the [used] user;

performing all scanning tasks in a scanning session;

notifying the user, through the selected peripheral device, that a series of scanning tasks has ended; and

determining if a scanning operation is waiting, wherein if a scanning operation is waiting, the method jumps to the step of selecting the peripheral device, and if no scanning operation is waiting, the scanning operation is terminated.

